



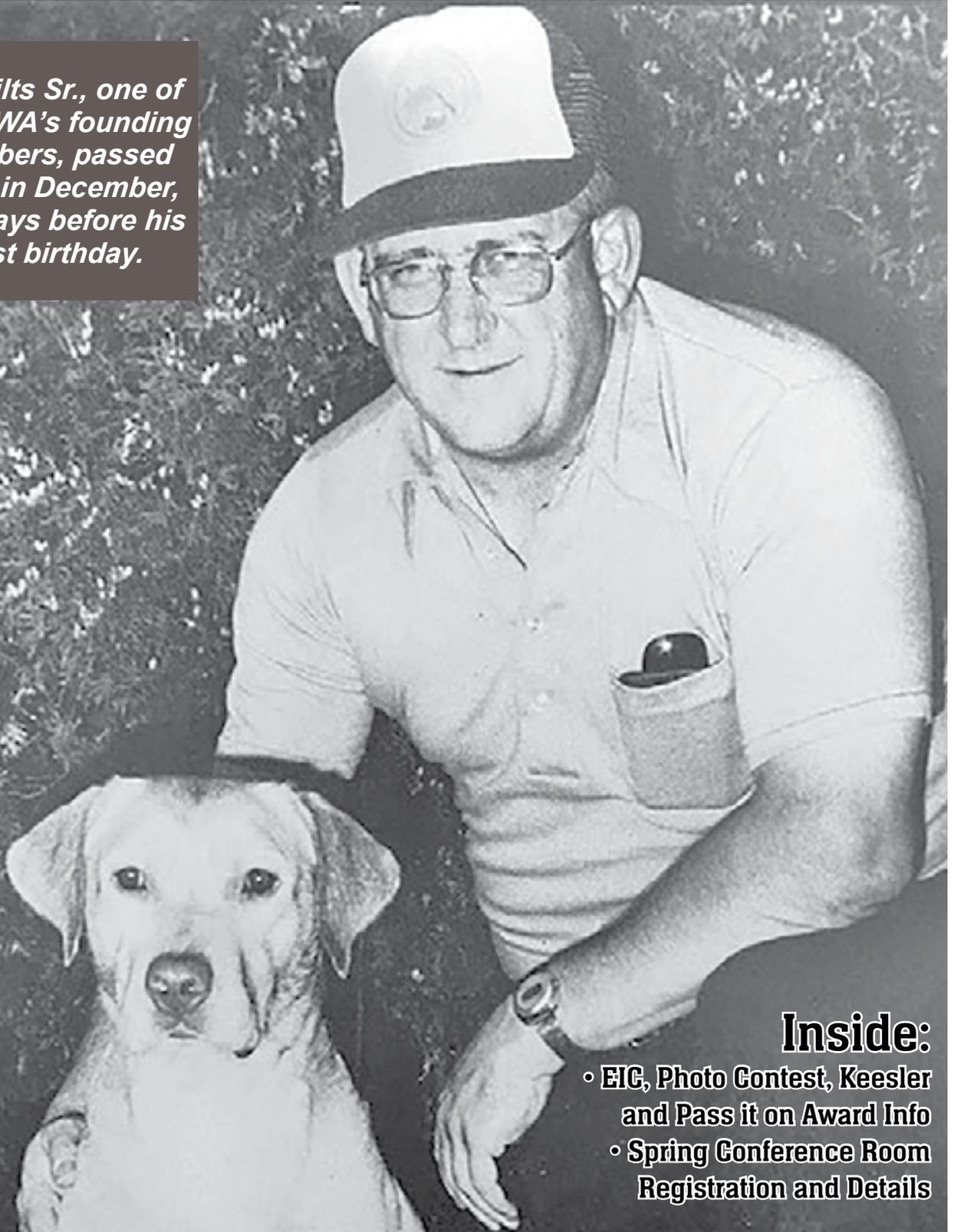
New York Outdoors

The Official Newsletter of the
New York State Outdoor Writers Association

Winter 2023

nysowa.org

*Bill Hilts Sr., one of
NYSOWA's founding
members, passed
away in December,
just days before his
91st birthday.*



Inside:

- **EIC, Photo Contest, Keesler and Pass it on Award Info**
- **Spring Conference Room Registration and Details**

NYSOWA Directory

PRESIDENT

CHRISTOPHER PAPARO
153 South River Road
Calverton, NY 11933

VICE PRESIDENTS

Western & Central NY
DAVID FIGURA
4080 O'Neill Lane
Skaneateles, NY 13151

Northern NY

DAN LADD
PO Box 302
Fort Ann, NY 12827

Southeastern NY
TOM SCHLICHTER
P.O. Box 462
Southold, NY 11971

TREASURER

LEO MALONEY
321 Robertson Rd.
Sherrill, NY 13069

RECORDING SECRETARY

GLENN SAPIR
21 Shamrock Dr.
Putnam Valley, NY 10579

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

NATE KENNEDY
24 Lawrence Ave.
Potsdam, NY 13676

PAST PRESIDENT

CHARLES A. WITEK III
1075 Tooker Ave.
West Babylon, NY 11704

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DEBORAH BROSEN
P.O. Box 86
Kinderhook, NY 12106

ROBERT HENKE
P.O. Box 173
Argyle, NY 12809

CHRIS KENYON
13028 Kyle Road
Wolcott, NY 14590

STEVE PIATT
PO Box 108
Waverly, PA 14892

RICH REDMAN
2531 Ensign Pond Rd.
Moriah Center, NY 12961

JERROD VILA
18 Sloan Ave.
Amsterdam, NY 12010

SUPPORTING MEMBER LIAISON

GLENN SAPIR

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

BILL HILTS, JR.
billhiltsjr@gmail.com

DAN LADD
buck@adkhunter.com

WEBSITE

MIKE JOYNER mjoyner@
joyneroutdoormedia.com

DAN LADD
buck@adkhunter.com

Digital, Social NYSOWA

Website: NYSOWA.org



[FACEBOOK](#)

[INSTAGRAM](#)



[YOUTUBE](#)

Contents

New Membership Software: 3-4
Spring Conference Info: 5
President's Report: 6
Vice President Reports: 7-12
Bob McNitt Memorial Scholarship: 14
Awards (EIC, Photo, Keesler, PIO): 16-20
More Membership News: 21-27
Supporting Member News: 28-36
Membership Applications: 37-38

Calendar

May 11-14, 2023
Spring Conference
Corning, Steuben County
(Details on Page 5)

Fall Safari
Tentative dates
Sept. 29-Oct. 2
(Fri-Mon)

Help Wanted/Needed

NYSOWA is seeking someone with experience in page design/publishing to assist our membership secretary with publishing the annual directory and sending it to members. If you'd like to help out, please contact president Chris Paparo at: chrispaparo@gmail.com.

Renewing Your NYSOWA Membership

Renewals are now additionally online

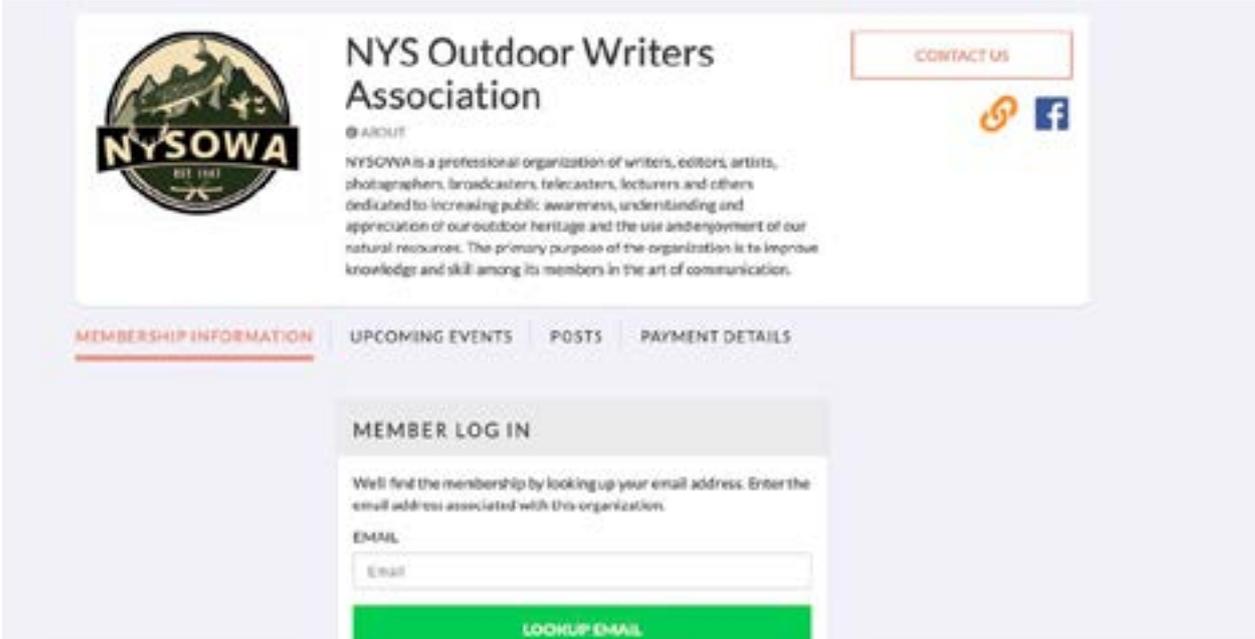
Using JointIt, NYSOWA's New Membership Software
Feb. 2023

We will be using a new platform called JointIt, which will allow you to manage your membership settings and pay dues online. If you like, **you can still use the hard copy form that is available on the members area of our website or in any newsletter, and also pay by check.** But if possible, please use the new software by following the instructions below. If you need assistance, please be aware that we are considering some Zoom workshops where Nate Kennedy or Dan Ladd can help you. Hopefully you will find the instructions helpful and be able to move forward.

Here's the steps:

Click this link: <https://app.joinit.com/o/nysowa/members#>, which will eventually be the Membership Landing Page on our website.

You should see a screen (below) that welcomes you and asks for your email. Enter your email (the one that was used to send you this email) and, then click the green "Look up email" button below your email. This will generate a password setup email to. Got to your email account and follow the instructions in this email, which will help you establish your password and access your Membership Information in JointIt.

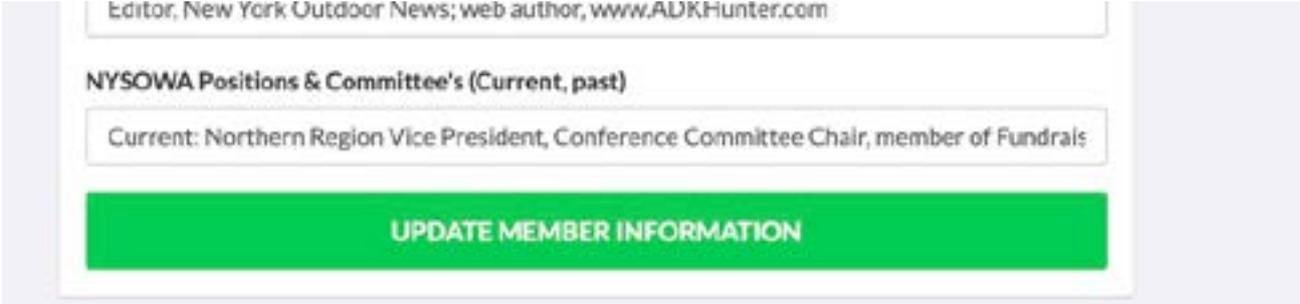


The screenshot shows the NYS Outdoor Writers Association membership page on the JointIt platform. At the top left is the NYSOWA logo, which features a circular emblem with a mountain, trees, and a river, with the text "NYSOWA" and "EST. 1981" below it. To the right of the logo is the text "NYS Outdoor Writers Association" and a small "@ ARCLIT" tag. Below this is a paragraph describing the organization's mission: "NYSOWA is a professional organization of writers, editors, artists, photographers, broadcasters, telecasters, lecturers and others dedicated to increasing public awareness, understanding and appreciation of our outdoor heritage and the use and enjoyment of our natural resources. The primary purpose of the organization is to improve knowledge and skill among its members in the art of communication." To the right of this text is a "CONTACT US" button and social media icons for LinkedIn and Facebook. Below the main content area is a navigation bar with four tabs: "MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION" (which is highlighted with a red underline), "UPCOMING EVENTS", "POSTS", and "PAYMENT DETAILS". Below the navigation bar is a "MEMBER LOG IN" section. It contains the text: "We'll find the membership by looking up your email address. Enter the email address associated with this organization." Below this text is a label "EMAIL" and an input field with the placeholder text "Email". At the bottom of the input field is a green button labeled "LOOKUP EMAIL".

REMEMBER - When you create this password it will be unique to your personal NYSOWA/JoinIt membership account. **It will NOT be the same universal password that we use for the members area of our website.** Please make note of this.

Once you have created your password, it should take you to a page where you can log into your Membership Information. Enter your email and password and you should gain access to your account and see your settings.

Now, look for a link that says Edit Membership Info at the bottom left of this screen, and click on it. Once you are in your account you can change the settings as you see fit, including information that is on the current hardcopy of membership renewal apps. Please update your address to be on the correct lines (sorry, our bulk import, which put the address on one line). Once you have changed all of your information, click on the green **Update Membership Information button** that looks like this.



The image shows a screenshot of a web form for updating membership information. At the top, there is a text input field containing the text "Editor, New York Outdoor News; web author, www.ADKHunter.com". Below this is a section header "NYSOWA Positions & Committee's (Current, past)". Underneath the header is another text input field containing the text "Current: Northern Region Vice President, Conference Committee Chair, member of Fundrais". At the bottom of the form is a prominent green button with the text "UPDATE MEMBER INFORMATION" in white capital letters.

Renewing Membership

At the bottom of your Membership Info, you should see a Renew Membership option, which is where you can also change some ID settings and pay membership dues.

Thanks again for doing this and for being part of NYSOWA.

Questions about membership?
Please email Nate Kennedy
at natekennedy60@gmail.com

NYSOWA Spring Conference 2023

Corning - Steuben County

May 11-14, 2023

Headquarters: [Radisson Hotel, Corning](#)

Explore Steuben: <https://www.corningfingerlakes.com>

Craft Improvement: Wild game cooking, Pertnear Outdoors,
National Deer Alliance, NYS Big Buck Club (Friday)

Tour the Corning Glass Museum (Saturday)

Turkey hunting, hiking, and fishing Keuka Lake, the Cohocton and Chemung Rivers

Book Rooms Now

Note: Members will be responsible to book their own rooms at a discounted rate of \$139/night **valid through March 10**. Block reserved through April 10.

To Book:

- 1.) Call the hotel directly, 607-962-5000, and request the NYS Outdoor Writers Association group for a reservation, followed by the dates of stay (May 11-14).
- 2.) Head to our website: [Book a Hotel in Corning, NY | Radisson Hotels Americas](#) and use the promotional code: **WRITE** to receive the group rate.

Separate conference registration & fees will apply. Schedule and details coming soon.

'Hope to see you there



NYSOWA President Chris Paparo



I hope everyone has had a great start to the New Year! I spent the first three weeks of the year SCUBA diving in the Solomon Islands. I could definitely get use to the tropical life!

There have been a couple changes/additions to NYSOWA this year. Stephen George has recently stepped down from his role as membership secretary due to family reasons. Thank you Stephen for all your hard work staying on top of who has and hasn't paid their dues, ever-changing member's contact info, and working with Steve Piatt to put out the membership directory. It is not an easy job, but you kept everything running smoothly. Nate Kennedy has volunteered to fill the role of membership secretary. Thank you Nate!

In the area of membership, we have started to use a new membership software called JointIt. By now you should have received an email from JointIt inviting you to create your account. If you have not received this email, please notify Nate Kennedy (Natekenedy60@gmail.com) so he can straighten out your account. With this new software, you will be able to update your member profile with just a couple of clicks. You will also be able to pay your dues, conference fees, EIC fees, etc. all online.

We have also changed up our annual meetings this year. We will be having our Annual Conference in May and our Safari in the fall. More details on these events can be found later in this newsletter. If you have not attended one of these events, you are really missing out. This change also means our EIC and Photo Awards will also be held in May. If you have entered the awards program in the past, thank you and I hope you will continue to enter this year. If you have not entered in the past, I encourage you to give it a try this year. More details on entering the awards program can also be found in this newsletter.

One area that NYSOWA is lacking right now is membership recruitment. To try and fix this, I created a membership recruitment committee. I am chairing this committee and Megan Postol and Shari Romar have volunteered to be on this committee. We will be meeting soon to discuss ways NYSOWA can recruit new members. If you have any ideas you would like to bring to our attention, or if you would like to join us on this committee, please let me know. We welcome your input.

I am excited for the upcoming year. I hope to see you all at our Spring Conference in Corning NY.

Northern Region VP *Dan Ladd*

Looking back on the 2022 Adirondack deer season, I'd say it was another quirky one. That's not a bad thing, but there were some peculiarities for sure. Like 2021, the entire first half of the season was unusually warm, with temperatures many weekends (including what is usually the peak rut in mid-November) in the high 60s, even flirting with 70s.

However, that didn't slow down our crew, the Iron Sight Gang. In fact, we prospered. Since we practice deer drives and had a good crew most weekends, we stomped through some thick cover and got the deer moving, so much so, they ran past our watchers on the other end. The result was six bucks being taken during the first four weekends of the season; a few nice ones and a few smaller ones.

Better yet, we were seeing a solid number of does, which had us thinking that some bigger bucks would be roaming into our area during the late season. That didn't happen, in fact we really didn't even start seeing buck sign such as rubs and scrapes until late in the season. Still, we were grateful for the success we had.

As for this hunter, opening weekend I saw three small bucks, which I let pass, only to not see an antler the rest of the regular season. When the Northern Zone late muzzleloading season rolled around, I spent some time in an area that is over-populated with does and wound up tagging one with the smoke-pole. So there's plenty of venison in the freezer.

Where's winter?

The mild winter we are experiencing might not be good for ice fishing and other winter activities, but (along with the heat bill) it sure is beneficial to the Adirondack deer herd. Coming into the hunting season there was very little food available in the form of mast crops, especially acorns. Part of the reason is the



The Iron Sight Gang with a pair of opening day bucks. Note, everyone wore orange during the hunt, but a few hunters shed some layers while dragging deer out on a 65-degree day.



Dan Ladd shot this 101-pound doe on the last day of the Northern Zone muzzleloading season in an area somewhat over-populated with deer.

current gypsy moth infestation we're experiencing. Therefore, concerns were that a tough winter would be just as tough on the deer, but that has not been the case.

It has been tough on ice fishing and ice fishing tournaments, several of which have been postponed or cancelled. One of these is an annual event I'm involved in on Glen Lake, which had it taken place, would help support NYSOWA's scholarship fund. And sadly, there have been some fatalities on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain involving ice anglers.

Big Muzzleloading Buck in Fulton County

On Jan. 1, the final day of the Holiday-Week hunt, Eric Gray, of Fulton County tagged a massive buck that green scored 181-2 inches gross and netted 177-3 inches. The rack will be scored again in early March after the required 60 day drying period. The buck will absolutely net in the the top 10 New York muzzleloader bucks of all time and probably flirting on the edge of the top 5 slots. NYSOWA's Jerrod Vila got the scoop on the buck for NY Outdoor News.

Sportsmen's Flea Market

The Warren County Conservation Council and Dunhams Bay Fish & Game Club are holding their first annual Sportsman's Flea Market on Saturday, March 18 at Dunhams Bay's clubhouse on Upper Ridge Road, in Queensbury.

The event will be open to the public. The hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and admission will be \$3 for adults and free for those age 16 and under. Refreshments will be available.

For vendors, six-foot tables are available for reserve at a cost of \$20 per table (\$15 for Council and club affiliated members). All outdoor-related gear is welcome, including large items for outside display. However, no firearms (other than air rifles) can be bought or sold. Ammunition may only be sold by a licensed FFL dealer.

For more information, or to reserve a table, call 518-623-3187, text 518-932-6594 or visit <http://dunhamsbay.net>.

West/Central Region VP David Figura



Sketchy ice fishing scene/NYS Winter Fishing Classic

It's been an off and on ice fishing season in CNY and Western NY due to a mostly mild winter.

For most of late December through early February, many ice anglers headed up to the Adirondacks and north country for safe ice. Oneida Lake has been among those places in Central New York that offered safe ice in certain areas of the lake. At times, though, anglers found themselves fishing in slushy conditions on the ice's surface.

Meanwhile, the 2023 NYS Winter Fishing Classic, the state's largest winter fishing tournament, is a go. The Classic, which began on Jan. 1 and runs through Feb. 28, allows anglers to fish any state waterway, any time of the day, using any legal angling method (open water, ice fishing, stream and river fishing, etc.) for seven categories of fish.

This year's competition again will gain be run on the Fish Donkey platform whereby all fish entered will be done using the Fish Donkey App with winners and places determined by length rather than weight.

All anglers must use a manufactured bump board large enough for the fish targeted or a commercial grade (1/2+ inch) metal retractable ruler with clearly visible 1/4 inch-increments. No homemade boards of stickers will be allowed. For more, see the Classic website: <http://www.nysiceproam.com/WinterClassic/Home.html>

Winter steelhead scene on Salmon River

The mild winter has made for good steelhead fishing on the Salmon River, according to fishing guide Troy Creasy, who took out clients right up until Christmas before heading down to Florida.

"The numbers of fish (being caught) are up but the size of them are down. It's been a small year class," Creasy said. "All my buddies running trips on the river have been taking clients out and doing well all through January, with the exception of the brief periods of snowy, cold blasts."

Creasy said the river could use some good snowpack upstream, which at this point is below normal. Below normal levels of melting snow during late April and early May will result in lower, warmer water levels, causing the fish to return back to Lake Ontario earlier than usual, he said.

Holiday Deer Hunt

For the second year, the state Department of Environmental Conservation scheduled a late season "Holiday Hunt" for deer in the Southern Zone – a move that included a bit of political drama.

The additional hunting season, set from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, was an extension of the late bow and muzzleloader seasons which ran from Dec. 12 to Dec. 20. Hunters had to possess a bowhunting or muzzleloading tag and could use all deer carcass tags valid during the previous fall hunting seasons.

The Southern Zone includes most of Central New York, Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier, Finger Lakes and Western New York.

The political drama included a move by CNY state lawmakers who played a role in pushing through legislation that would allow Upstate counties to opt out of the hunt. The bill, approved by

the state Legislature, ended getting vetoed by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

Following the veto, State Sen. John Mannion (D-Geddes), who sponsored the bill, issued a statement saying he will continue pursuing a "legislative solution" allowing counties to opt out of the holiday hunt, calling the current regulation "burdensome to municipalities."

Snowmobilers were among the opt-out bill's strongest supporters. Their main concern with the Holiday Hunt was that it would decrease snowmobiling opportunities as many private property owners typically only allow snowmobiling after the hunting season ends.

Last fall, more than 9,400 12- and 13-year-old hunters, representing nearly 9,200 families, submitted more than 1,800 deer harvest reports.

DEC conducted a post-hunting survey that found 82 percent of youth hunters and 87 percent of their adult mentors were moderately or greatly satisfied with their youth big game hunting experience. Additionally, no hunting-related shooting incidents, violations, or license revocations involving 12- and 13-year-old hunters occurred during the first two years of the pilot program.

Outdoor Sportsman Shows

A full slate of outdoor shows were back this winter, providing a sure cure for outdoor enthusiasts suffering from cabin fever in Central and Western NY.

Among them: NY Sportsman's Expo (Jan. 27-29, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse); Central NY Sportsman's Show (Feb. 4, Kallet Civic Center, Oneida); Greater Niagara Fishing and Outdoors Show (Feb. 16-19, Conference and Event Center, Niagara Falls); NYS Boat Show (Feb. 16-19, NYS Fairgrounds); Seneca Allegany Casino Sportsman's Show (Feb. 25-26, Seneca Allegany Casino and Hotel); CNY RV Show (March 2-5, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse); Western NY Sports and Travel Expo (March 10-12, Erie County Fairgrounds, Hamburg); Big East Camping and Outdoors Sports Show (April 1-3, Turning Stone Casino, Verona).

Bikini Snowmobiling Rally

The 9th annual Bikini Rally, a unique fundraiser that combines the passion of snowmobiling with helping men and women diagnosed with breast cancer, raised an eye-opening \$17,000 this year. The Feb. 4 event, which featured mostly women and some men riding snowmobiles in bikinis and included calendar sales of some of the female participants, was held at the Genesee Snow Packers Snowmobile Club, in Oakfield in Genesee County. For more, see the event's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bikinirally>

Winona Forest winter events

The 42nd annual Winona Forest Tourathon, a popular cross country ski racing event that each year draws competitors from around the state and beyond, was set for Feb. 11 in this snowy, western end of the Tug Hill region. Due to warm weather and poor conditions, though, the event was rescheduled for Feb. 25

Meanwhile, the ever-changing temperature and snow conditions in the area have resulted in snowshoe and fat tire races being held, with dog sled races tentatively scheduled for later in the winter.

Winona Forest also was slated to offer snowshoe, fat tire bike and dog sled races this winter. For more, see the Winona Forest Recreation Association website: <http://www.winonaforest.com/>

Increased salmon stocking in Lake Ontario

DEC and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) have agreed to a 10 percent increase in Chinook salmon stocking in Lake Ontario this year.

Since 2016, both county's agencies have been using the status of the lake's alewife population and Chinook salmon growth and condition as determining factors of how many salmon and trout should be stocked. Alewife, a baitfish, make up some 90 percent of a Chinook's diet in the lake, researchers have said.

Data on the state of the alewife biomass was collected following DEC trawling net surveys at various locations in the lake. In recent years, stocking cutbacks – totaling 20 percent one year, and an additional 20 percent in another year -- were made out of fear that if cutbacks weren't made on the numbers of fish stocked, the Chinooks wouldn't have enough prey to sustain their numbers. And in a worse-case scenario, DEC officials said, the numbers of the Chinooks, the lake's most sought-after gamefish, would crash, resulting in a big blow to the Lake Ontario fishery scene that generates an estimated \$112 million annually for the Upstate New York economy.

In 2022, data collected concerning the estimated age-2 and older alewife biomass in the lake increased and is predicted to remain at similar levels in 2023 and 2024. The average weight of an age-3 Chinook salmon increased to 20.7 pounds in 2022 and remained above the lower threshold of 18.4 pounds, DEC said.

Record year for walleye fishing on Oneida Lake

Anglers caught 107,000 Oneida Lake walleye in 2022, the highest number of any year since 2010.

The number was based on preliminary data from a creel survey conducted by Cornell University researchers. The full report will be released later this spring

The survey's biggest take away is that the current walleye limit of five walleye hasn't negatively impacted the fishery as some had feared. Last year, the state Department of Environmental Conservation changed the daily take limit from three to five in order to reduce the lake's walleye population.

Since 2019, Oneida Lake's walleye population has hovered around one million fish, a level not seen since the mid-1980s and twice the number reported in 1993.

Chautauqua County Outdoor Communicator Contest:

The Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau is once again sponsoring a outdoor communicator excellence in craft contest featuring nearly \$1,000 in cash prizes.

The judges are looking for stories about the multitude of adventures and activities that outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy in the county. Eligible topics include "fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, boating or anything outdoors, including the county's grape country – wine tasting, hops farming (microbreweries), etc."

Stories must be published between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022. Submission deadline is March 15, 2023.

Submit entrees to Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, Attn: Andrew Nixon, Email: nixon@tour-chautauqua.com ; Phone: 716-450-4569 or by US Mail address: Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, PO Box 1441, Main Gate, Chautauqua, NY, 14722.

Entries can be submitted as a PDF or web link, if possible.

There is no limit on the number of submissions. A total of three winners will be selected. Cash prizes will be 1st place; \$500; 2nd place ; \$250 and 3rd, \$125.

Contributors to this column included NYSOWA members Steve Feathersone, David Barus and Christopher Kenyon.



Southeast Region VP Tom Schlichter

If you live in the southeast sector of the Empire State, you've undoubtedly experienced some erratic weather swings over the past few months. In early February, for example, we bottomed out at zero degrees here in Southold, Long Island – and 24 hours later rebounded to 44 degrees. Less than a week prior to our frigid spell, pussy willows were actually blooming near a small pond around the corner from my home. Even more surprising, so was a deep red rhododendron. Both were well ahead of schedule due, I imagine, to a very mild winter overall.

Call it climate change or whatever you want, but the weather certainly has been wacky this year, and over the past several. Today, one day after

Valentine's Day, it's 60 degrees outside my door. I'm guessing the lower tri-state area has missed another ice-fishing season. The bright side to this erratic weather is that freshwater fishing in our region has actually remained surprisingly productive through the dead of winter. Pickerel, in particular, already seem to be taking up early spring positions just outside the shallows, and largemouth bass are not only hitting suspending jerk baits in open water, but also Rapala-style minnow plugs that float at rest and dive only a foot or two on the retrieve. One angler I know has actually caught a few very solid fish in recent weeks on large glide baits, normally a post-spawn option. It seems there's always a silver lining if you look hard enough.

Unless, of course, we're talking about fisheries management on the saltwater front. If you love catching and eating black sea bass, prepare to tighten your belts yet again. One of the most plentiful species on the East Coast – and nearly impossible to escape these days when targeting codfish or even blackfish on Long Island's ocean wrecks - the sea biscuits are likely to see an increase from a 16" to a 16.5" minimum size this season. They may also see a reduction in season length and creel limit.

Scup, too, are facing cuts with the 50-fish limit aboard party and charter boats likely being reduced to 30 fish per angler, and the minimum size limit increased for all anglers from 10" to 10.5". That extra half-inch for scup might not seem like much to boating anglers, but it certainly will make things tougher for bank fishermen once the spring run begins to slow. One also has to wonder how many more sea bass will it take for anglers to creel a fish that's a half inch longer when you consider a 16-inch sea bass is a really nice one to start with?

The proposed changes, as they have for over a decade now when it comes to black sea bass, have anglers questioning the accuracy of the survey methods and data on which the rules are based. The need for reductions were handed down to the state level by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (the latter of which I am a member) which must work within the constraints of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This law is designed to protect our saltwater fisheries from overfishing but does not have the flexibility to respond adequately to fish populations that suddenly surpass historic levels as has been the case with black sea bass.

The plight of endangered right whales also has coastal anglers shaking their heads. In days of yore, when whales were harvested around the world for their blubber and the rich oil it contained, this species was comparatively easy to locate and catch. They also floated when slayed - making them the "right" whale to hunt. Pushed to the brink of extinction by the early 1890's, these giants of the ocean have been known to measure over 50 feet in length, weigh up to 140,000 pounds, and live as long as 70 years. Today, they are among one of the world's most endangered whale spe-

cies, with recent estimates placing their current population at less than 350 individuals – including fewer than 70 breeding females. Although whaling is no longer a threat to these majestic creatures, their population has never managed to substantially rebound.

Now comes word these whales are also shrinking. You read that right – each generation in recent decades is getting smaller! That, say marine biologists, is a serious problem for the species which also must contend with changes in availability and distribution of their prey due to climate change, entanglement in fishing gear, habitat degradation, obtrusive man-made ocean noise that interferes with their ability to communicate, and vessel strikes, to survive as a species. Currently, a host of possible provisions, guidelines and regulations, are under consideration to protect the species including reduced speed zones for larger vessels (>35') in areas where right whales are known to frequent or be currently passing through, and use of commercial fishing traps in right whale host waters that have pop-up or ropeless buoys. No doubt they'll be pain involved before this is over for New York's offshore fleet, both recreational and commercial.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA,) typical right whales today on average measure about a meter smaller than they did just 30 or 40 years ago. That may not seem relatively insignificant for such large creatures, but it turns out smaller females carry less blubber (which serves as their energy resource) and therefore require longer recovery periods between reproductive cycles. That equates to producing significantly fewer calves over their life spans. Obviously, that doesn't bode well for a species that at this point is fighting for continued existence.



With a current size limit of 16 inches, a keeper black sea bass is already a trophy when caught from shore. This season however, it's likely the minimum size will be extended another half-an-inch.

Photo courtesy of OutdoorTom.com.

NYSOWA Membership News

The New York State Outdoor Writers Association is again offering the Bob McNitt Memorial Scholarship Program.

The NYSOWA board overseeing the scholarships consist of David Figura, Deb Brosen and David Taylor. Annual scholarships are offered in three areas:

DEC Summer Youth Camps:

DEC camps combine environmental education, hunter education programs, and outdoor recreation into a fun adventure. Camps run Sunday afternoon through Friday afternoon.

According to the DEC website: "Campers will have the opportunity to learn outdoor skills including backpacking, camping, and canoeing. They will explore New York's diverse habitats, have the chance to learn basic ecological concepts, and how human activities affect the environment. Campers solve challenges, explore environmental concepts, practice outdoor skills, and spend the week immersed in nature."

NYSOWA sends two youth each summer to the camps, covering their \$350 tuition. **Registration to attend this year opens at 1 pm. April 2.** Signups are online and the available slots fill up fast.

The camps, their locations and the ages they serve are listed below:

- *Camp Colby (11 to 13 year-olds, 1 week for 14-17 year-olds) in Franklin County, next to the Adirondack Forest Preserve
- *Camp DeBruce (11 to 13 year-olds, 1 week for 14-17 year-olds) in the southern Catskills
- *Camp Rushford (11 to 13 year-olds, 2 weeks of 14-17 year-olds) in Allegany County
- *Camp Pack Forest (14 to 17 year-olds, 2 weeks of 11-13 year-olds) in the southern Adirondacks

For more, see the DEC website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>. Know a deserving kid who would benefit from attending?

Contact David Figura at davidjfigura@gmail.com.

DEC Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop:

This scholarship is given by NYSOWA in memory of Melody Tennity. Tennity, who passed in 2021, is the only woman who has served as NYSOWA president, presiding over the organization's affairs from 2004-06.

A summary of the BOW program, according to the DEC website follows:

"Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) and Beyond BOW are programs designed to teach women outdoor skills. These programs provide women with information, encouragement, and hands-on instruction in outdoor skills such as fishing, shooting, archery, hunting, trapping, outdoor photography, map and compass, survival, camping, canoeing, and outdoor cooking. BOW workshops are designed primarily for women who have little or no experience with outdoor activities. These are three-day workshops that offer many different classes over the course of a weekend."

Cost to attend is \$350?

NYSOWA sends one NYSOWA member, spouse or child of a member to the BOW workshop annually. In addition, NYSOWA will make an annual donation to support the non-profit Becoming an Outdoors Woman organization to help attendees in financial need.

DEC offers both winter and fall workshops. This year, NYSOWA will sending one person to the fall workshop, which has not yet been scheduled. For more, see the DEC website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/68.html>

Know someone who would benefit from attending? Contact Deb Brosen at featherartstudio@yahoo.com.

Academic Scholarship:

Each year NYSOWA awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving college student enrolled in a curriculum related to journalism, outdoors or the environment.

Know a deserving student? Contact David Taylor at david.j.taylor@stonybrook.edu.

Becoming An Outdoors Woman (BOW) Program

By Deb Brosen

In 2020, NYSOWA added a scholarship to the Becoming An Outdoors Woman (BOW) Program that is now available to a NYSOWA member or family member on an annual basis.

BOW is a program hosted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation held in September open to women ages 18 and above. Each year, approximately 125 women meet at the Silver Bay YMCA in the Adirondacks for a jam packed three days full of fun, learning and camaraderie. BOW is designed to provide women with information to learn outdoor skills. Women from across the state, and of all skill levels, attend. Through the encouragement of the instructors, as well as the participants, and the hands-on instruction received, women walk away with knowledge and a newfound confidence that will enable them to enjoy and experience outdoor adventures that may not have been possible otherwise.

Workshops include, but are not limited to fishing, shooting, archery, hunting, trapping, outdoor photography, map and compass, knot tying, wilderness survival, camping, canoeing, outdoor cooking, field dressing and K9 first aid. Participants select four workshops and can obtain their hunting and trapping licenses at this program if desired.

It is very empowering for women to learn in an all women environment. Many are stepping out of their comfort zone at the same time, which puts the fear of learning aside. Lasting friendships are developed. There is something for everyone, even those who have experience in the outdoors.

Last year's scholarship recipient, Donna Keeler, attended BOW for the first time. Donna is very appreciative of being sponsored at the workshop and said, "I came to the workshop as a "newbie" and experienced life changing lessons. I learned so much and enjoyed every minute of it! I never knew how to tie knots, but rather tied everything in a pretty bow. I learned fishing, shooting, knot tying, and wilderness first aid. I am truly grateful for this experience and all the kindness I was shown. The instructors were amazing! Thank you so NYSOWA for sponsoring me!" Donna is looking forward to doing more with the knowledge she gained at BOW and attending as many BOW workshops as possible in the future.

NYSOWA members interested in being considered, or having a family member considered for the BOW scholarship should email Debbie Brosen at featherartstudio@yahoo.com and copy Dave Figura, Scholarship Committee Chair, at figgy123@aol.com now using the subject line of BOW Scholarship. The email should include a brief summary of why you are interested in attending, if you have attended BOW in the past and when, and your contact information. The email will be shared with the full NYSOWA scholarship committee, for a selection of recipient to be made by the end of June. Registration for BOW opens in July and is very limited. As a regular participant of BOW, Debbie would be happy to answer any questions anyone may have regarding the program.



NYSOWA Seeks Nominations for 2023 Pass It On Award

The New York State Outdoor Writers Association reminds members that nominations are now open for the 2023 Pass It On Award. Initiated by Bass Pro Shops, this annual award honors the person who has done the most to “pass on” our outdoor heritage. This award is given to Active Members of NYSOWA. The writer or media person is honored with a plaque at the Annual Conference and his or her name is recorded in the Annual Directory along with previous winners.

Both Bass Pro Shops and NYSOWA have recognized the fact that it is vital to pass on our outdoor heritage, including understanding the role of conservation and promoting an interest in our outdoor sports. This can be done in a number of ways such as creating awareness through writing, helping organizations that promote these activities, or directly being involved in mentoring and educating.

Nominees must be Active Members of NYSOWA. Any member of NYSOWA may nominate a person they consider deserving of this award by giving a written description of the activities or accomplishments that this person has performed to pass on the heritage of outdoor sports and conservation. Nominations should be sent to Bill Hilts, Jr. at 618 Walnut Street, Lockport, NY 14094 or by e-mail to billhiltsjr@gmail.com.

Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2023. Take note of the early deadline. The winner will be honored at the NYSOWA Spring Conference in Corning.

State Communicators Group Opens Nominations for New York M. Paul Keesler Outdoor Citizen Award

New York State Outdoor Writers Association to honor an individual or organization

The 2023 NYSOWA M. Paul Keesler New York Outdoor Citizen Award will be presented to an individual or organization that has effectively raised the public’s awareness of outdoor recreational opportunities and conservation issues in New York State. The award recipient will be officially announced at the 2023 annual conference of the New York State Outdoor Writers Association (NYSOWA) in Corning in May.

The award was created to honor worthy individuals and organizations, at the same time perpetuating the name of one of NYSOWA’s dearest members. The late M. Paul Keesler spent nearly five decades promoting and conserving the outdoor wonders and recreational opportunities within New York State. Beginning with outdoor columns for the Utica Observer Dispatch and progressing to the popular New York Sportsman magazine, Keesler, and his magazine’s contributors, enlightened and educated readers statewide and beyond to the wild treasures of the Empire State. Keesler also wrote books on canoe fishing New York waterways and on his beloved West Canada Creek and Mohawk Valley.

Anyone may submit a nomination of 350 words or less and have it endorsed by an active member of NYSOWA. To review award criterion and the nominating process, visit www.nysowa.org. To learn of a NYSOWA member in a nominator’s area who might endorse such a nomination, contact Bill Hilts, Jr. at (716) 622-6168, or Mike Joyner (607) 753-8420 or check the website www.nysowa.org.

Nominations must be received by April 1, 2023. The NYSOWA Conference will be held in the spring this year. Get your nominations in early.

Send nominations to Bill Hilts, Jr., 618 Walnut Street, Lockport, NY 14094, or email at billhiltsjr@gmail.com.

NYSOWA Excellence in Craft Writing, Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Award Guidelines & Rules

It's time to review your work from 2022 (2021 and 2022 for the TV, Radio, Video and Audio category) and begin to prepare entries for the writing and photo awards recognition program. Of course, photos could have been taken at any time, not just in 2022.

Submission to the EIC is easy. In fact, you needn't send in an actual tear sheet as your original. A copy of the original, with publication name and date and byline showing, is adequate. In addition, you need to send in three copies with that information deleted.

And don't concern yourself with size of paper. Just send in what you have.

Because the awards presentation will take place at our banquet scheduled for May 13, rather than the traditional fall banquet date, entries must be received by the administrators of the writing and photo recognition programs by April 1, 2023.

Deb Brosen is chair of the Janice M. Keesler Memorial photo awards. I continue to chair the Excellence in Craft writing awards program, and we look forward to processing your submissions.

—Glenn Sapir

Deadline for receipt of entries for both writing and photo award entries is **April 1, 2023.**

EIC & Photo Contest Rules & Entry Form

EIC CATEGORIES

The categories for 2022 work are: Magazine Column, Magazine Feature, Newspaper Column, Newspaper Feature and Online Publication; and TV, Radio, Video and Audio (aired or posted in 2021 and 2022). Those categories are defined as such:

Newspaper Column: A regularly appearing article, typically shorter than a feature, that has a reappearing name, slug, etc., such as "On the Trail," "Fishing," "Hunting," etc.

Newspaper Feature: A newspaper feature does not regularly appear with a slug or name, is typically longer than a column, usually includes graphics and may have a sidebar(s).

Magazine Column: A regularly appearing article, typically shorter than a feature, that has a reappearing name, slug, etc., such as "On the Trail," "Fishing," "Hunting," etc.

Magazine Feature: A magazine feature does not regularly appear with a slug or name, is typically longer than a column, usually includes graphics and may have a sidebar(s).

Online Publication: Online publication may be a feature, column, blog post or other electronic communication that was paid for--and was first posted online before it might have otherwise been published.

TV, Radio, Video and Audio: Entries may be outdoor-related topics/formats, including, but not limited to, TV show, outdoor-themed commercial, movie, radio show, podcast recording, podcast, audio book et al.

SUBMISSIONS

Print Entries (Magazine and Newspaper Feature and Column, Online Publication and Book categories) should be sent to: Glenn Sapir, EIC Chairman, 21 Shamrock Drive, Putnam Valley, NY 10579.

Note: Electronic submission of print entries will not be accepted.

Each submission of a print entry should include:

- one original as published or copy of the original clearly showing the name and date of publication and the author's name.
- three copies of the originally-as-published article, with the name and date of publication and any mentions of the author's name, in the byline, photo credits, captions and body text deleted.
- a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you wish the return of your original entries
- a completed entry form for EACH submission.
- a check for \$5 made out to NYSOWA, which covers all of the member's EIC entries

Online Publication entries should be sent as hard-copy printouts, under the same rules that apply to the print categories. Online Publication entries must include:

- the information requested on the entry form.
- the URL of the entry.
- a check for \$5 made out to NYSOWA, if this is the only category being entered.

Important Information:

- Writers may submit a maximum of two entries in each category.
- The author must have been paid for the work entered.
- Work must have been published between Jan. 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2022 (TV, Radio, Video and Audio entries must have been aired or posted in 2021 or 2022).
- All entries must be the author's original work.
- Awards will not be given in any category that receives entries from less than three members.
- If entries are from fewer than three members in either the Magazine Column or Newspaper Column category, the entries for those two categories will be combined into a Column category.
- If entries are from fewer than three members in either the Magazine Feature or Newspaper Feature category, the entries for those two categories will be combined into a Feature category.
- Audio books, whether original or an audio version of a previously created book, is eligible for the TV, Radio, Video and Audio category and is not eligible for the Book category.
- Failure to follow the guidelines and rules above can lead to disqualification of entries. This is left to the discretion of the EIC chairman.
- By entering your submission, you are allowing NYSOWA to reprint your entry for promotional purposes.

Excellence in Craft Entry Form

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ARTICLE SUBMITTED

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

EIC Category _____

Title or Headline of Entry (and URL for online publication entries)

Publication Name and Date. For book entries, Publisher's name and Year of Book Publication

All entries and payment must be received by April 1, 2023, sent to:

EIC Writing Awards, c/o Glenn Sapir, 21 Shamrock Drive, Putnam Valley, NY 10579

DON'T FORGET:

A \$5 check or money order payable to NYSOWA must be submitted to Glenn at the above address at the time of submission. One \$5 fee covers all EIC writing contest submissions—EXCEPT THAT BOOK ENTRIES REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL \$5 FEE PER ENTRY.

Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards Program Rules

Prints are no longer accepted as entries.

NOTE: YOU MUST LABEL DIGITAL PHOTO ENTRIES WITH YOUR NAME, CATEGORY AND, IF ENTERING TWO IN THE SAME CATEGORY, WITH "1" FOR THE FIRST AND "2" FOR THE SECOND. E.G., JOHNDOE HUNTINGFISHING1. ENTRIES NOT PROPERLY LABELED WILL BE RETURNED FOR PROPER LABELING BY THE PHOTO AWARDS ADMINISTRATOR!

1. Only members in good standing are eligible.
2. A maximum of two photos per category may be entered. Submissions must be received by April 1, 2023, accompanied by a one-time submission fee of \$5 in check form, payable to NYSOWA. Late entries will be disqualified. No name, title or caption should be provided. Chairman will assign a number to each photo and keep a record of photographer and photo number separate from the photos.
3. Each photo can only be submitted to one category. Photos from previous contests may be resubmitted if they did not place (1st, 2nd or 3rd).
4. All categories will be judged prior to the Annual Conference, and awards will be made at the Conference.
5. The following are the categories for the contest:
 - a. Hunting/Fishing--Hunting/fishing photographs, including hero shots, action, hunting or fishing equipment.
 - b. Outdoor Action--Outdoor-oriented action photographs, excluding hunting and fishing but including boating, camping, RVs, shooting sports, hiking, skiing, windsurfing, etc.
 - c. Outdoor Scenic--Scenic photographs of either flora or fauna, landscapes, close-ups, panoramic. These may include people, though the people should be part of the scene, not the subject of the photo.
 - d. Wildlife--Though the judges may take into consideration unusual aspects of the wildlife subject, such as size of antlers, length of beard and length and girth of fish, primary consideration should be given to the technical photographic aspects and general appeal of the image.
 - e. People--As the category suggests, the focus is on "people" in the outdoors.

6. Categories "A" through "E" do not exclude photos taken in black-and-white film.
7. Photo enhancement is limited to standard editing, such as: color correction, contrast control, filter use and image cropping. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated
8. All entries must be the member's original work. If a dispute leads to a challenge, the member must defend that image and prove it is original work. Use of royalty-free photo images or clipart is prohibited. Their use is subject to disciplinary action by the NYSOWA Board of Directors.
9. Judges shall be recruited who preferably are associated with the outdoor industry and have a professional appreciation of the specific challenges of outdoor and wild-life photography. In the absence of judges meeting the criterion, judges with an expertise as photographers or photo editors will be recruited. At least two people must participate as judges, and three is preferable to minimize the possibility of ties. No minimum number of entries must be submitted in a category to validate the judging of that category. First, second and third place prizes must be awarded if at least three entries have been submitted. No honorable mentions will be made.
10. By entering photographs in the competition, the owners agree that NYSOWA has the right to print and publish any winning image in New York Outdoors, or an NYSOWA awards publication or other form of promotion unless the member objects in writing when submitting the entries. Unless the copyright owner of a photograph specifically objects in writing, NYSOWA has the right to reproduce winning images for display purposes, including display at venues selected by contest sponsor(s), subject to the approval of the NYSOWA board of directors.
11. Entries should be submitted to Deb Brosen at featherartstudio@yahoo.com.

Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Awards Entry Form

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY EACH PHOTO SUBMITTED

Name: _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____ Phone Number _____
 Email Address _____ Photo Category _____

Photo Identification: _____

Submit entries to Deb Brosen: featherartstudio@yahoo.com

DON'T FORGET:

A \$5 check or money order payable to NYSOWA must be submitted to Deb at the time of submission. Entry fees, and entry forms if not sent electronically with the photo submissions, are to be mailed to the Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Contest, c/o Deborah Brosen, 143 Hennett Road, Valatie, NY 12184

DON'T FORGET:

Submissions for both the Janice M. Keesler Memorial Photo Contest and the Excellence in Crafts Awards for writing must be received by the awards administrators **by April 1, 2023**. Don't procrastinate in submitting your entries.

Seeking the Next Generation to Share My Outdoor Work **By: Roger Fulton, NYSOWA Member**



I'm looking to semi-retire at the end of 2023 at the age of 76. But my New York 'outdoor' business needs some new blood to take it over. It could use someone with more hi-tech skills and ideas. I'd stay on as a 'mentor' as long as necessary.

It's an "outdoor mini-adventures" business with many hiking, biking and kayaking regional books for New York and beyond. We have database files from our previous books for the Thousand Islands, the Lake George and Saratoga regions, as well as the Finger Lakes region. Books and data on the Erie Canalway and NY Fire Towers are also included. Detailed information files on more than 500 NY outdoor venues are included. It also would include numerous PowerPoint programs we present to nature centers and libraries.

It's been a part-time retirement business for me for many years, but could have great potential for the right 'outdoor-oriented' person who wanted to expand it, or add it to their existing outdoor business. It would be a great business for a guide or someone who has another 'seasonal' business to fill their off-season time. They can lead groups or add or update my books or data bases, or whatever. My business is just a place where they can have a solid base and make it whatever they want.

I've been in the writing, publishing and business world for more than 30 years, so I have a little bit of experience to pass on to the right candidate. 😊 I can work out gradual terms without them putting up much money "up front".

I have already reached a similar agreement with people in Florida for that aspect of the business. Hope to do the same with a good candidate in New York.

Please take a look at my webpage and see if you see potential for anyone you know that might be a great candidate. www.RogerFulton.com. They can immediately take charge of all aspects of the business, or do it gradually. Either way, I'll stay on to mentor them for future success.

I just want my 30+ years of my outdoor books and work to go to a good home to be shared with future generations. Any inquiries are welcome and all terms are negotiable.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Roger Fulton
www.RogerFulton.com
Roger@RogerFulton.com

When the Stars Were Amber

By Joe Crance

Old Buck had missed that one.

Or perhaps the elderly black and tan coonhound had just wanted to stay with me while his former protégé, Seth, opened on the raccoon's trail.

Hard sayin' for sure.

Either way, Seth had caught wind of a raccoon and now drove that track alone, hard and fast, with his deep trail bawls echoing in the nighttime forest. The ebony hound moved steadily due north. Years of chasing ringtails—and knowing it's easy to get turned around in the dark—I mentally noted to head due south get back to the pathway.

Before snapping my headlamp on, I looked up. The cloudless, early fall night sky—safe from the scourge of light pollution—held a million silver flecks. Visible above was the Big Dipper, with its two outer stars in the cup pointing to the North Star. The compass in my pocket wouldn't be necessary tonight. If my GPS unit failed, the heavens wouldn't.

Thankfully, the temperature had dropped. The promise of winter floated on the wind, and the ringtails were running in the cooler weather.

Walking stick in hand and flicking my headlamp on, I noticed Buck nearby, listening patiently as Seth continued to work out the track. A moment later, Seth loosed three exceptionally long locate barks.

"Swear that dog likes to hear himself talk," I muttered, and something my wife often contended that Seth and I shared in common.*

On cue, Seth switched over to his rapid chopping tree bark. The raccoon had been located, and per the GPS unit, my hound stood a little over three hundred yards away.

The old hound by my side whined softly.

"Go on, Buck. Don't wait for me. I'll be along soon enough."

Permission granted, the old hound bounded off into the dark beyond my lights and toward the sound of Seth's voice.

Ambling beneath ancient trees, I stopped to study the remnants of a forgotten stone wall, possibly once a demarcation between long-abandoned farms around the time of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Who knew for sure? Likely though, this raccoon had run atop the dilapidated fence's flat rocks, and thus not a surprise to find Seth treed so nearby.

Standing there a few moments more, I heard Buck add his voice to Seth's. Another hundred yards to go, I guessed. Sure, the GPS could have told me (again) the exact distance, but why bother when the hounds were so loud and so near?

One thing was sure, though. I'd best get walking. The gap between me and my dogs wasn't going to shorten, whether I knew the distance to the exact yard or not.

Here and there, tall white pines grew amongst deciduous red oaks and sugar maples.

An unpruned apple tree stood, alone and tenacious, hinting of an orchard that had once occupied this land. Now its fruit served the forest's denizens, acting as another draw to the woods bandits.

At about fifty yards out with Seth and Buck's cacophony surely waking the land's memories, I looked up through leafy branches. There, two sentient, yellow dots reflected back.

Seth had accurately located the raccoon.

When I reached the base of that old oak—its enormous trunk effectively splitting into three separate trees—I was already praising both hounds.

"Well done, boys! I saw the raccoon already!"

Looking over his shoulder, Seth continued treeing and wagging his tail—proud that I'd honored our pact by following wherever he led.

But the ebony hound's success quickly multiplied.

A glance above discovered additional pairs of yellow eyes reflected in my headlamp's beam. The mama raccoon, the same ringtail who'd watched my approach earlier, was now climbing higher in the oak to join one of her kittens. Then Old Buck walked over to the closest nearby tree to casually place a paw on its trunk, revealing another two kitten raccoon high above,

watching the commotion below.

Yes. Very well done, indeed.

It was training season, and the next command told my hounds it was time to leave these curious ringtails alone tonight and find another. "Den tree!"

Seth and Buck dutifully dropped their front paws off their respective trees, and we headed back the way we'd come in, with four pairs of eyes safely aloft and surely watching our departure.

And for the briefest moment on an early autumn night in Upstate New York, the silver stars above had become amber.

*My wife's exact words were: "Like father, like son."



Part of the old stone fence.



*Three of the four raccoon looking down at us this night.
The fourth raccoon must have blinked.*

NYSOWA Mourns the loss of Spider Rybaak and founding member Bill Hilts Sr.

Hilts, Sr., Outdoor Legend, Mentor, Friend ...Dad, Dead at (almost) 91

By Bill Hilts, Jr.

“I think I’ve lived too long.”

That was one of the last statements William R. Hilts (aka Bill, Sr, Big Bill, Old Bear, Dad, and Papa) made as he shared time with son Rick and grandson Christian on Dec. 11. The last couple of months were not good to him as his health (and memory) was failing. He was a shell of what he once was, and it was sad to see. We didn’t want to remember him like that. The next day he was gone from this Earth, moving on to a much better place – reunited with his wife, Sylvia (Mom and Grammy) who passed in 2018.

Since his death, less than a week short of his 91st birthday, our life has been a whirlwind. We didn’t have any time to think and put things into perspective. Hundreds upon hundreds of people reaching out to extend condolences from so many different people, groups, and organizations he was involved with. He wasn’t just a member in many cases, he was a person who truly made a difference. He was a friend and mentor.

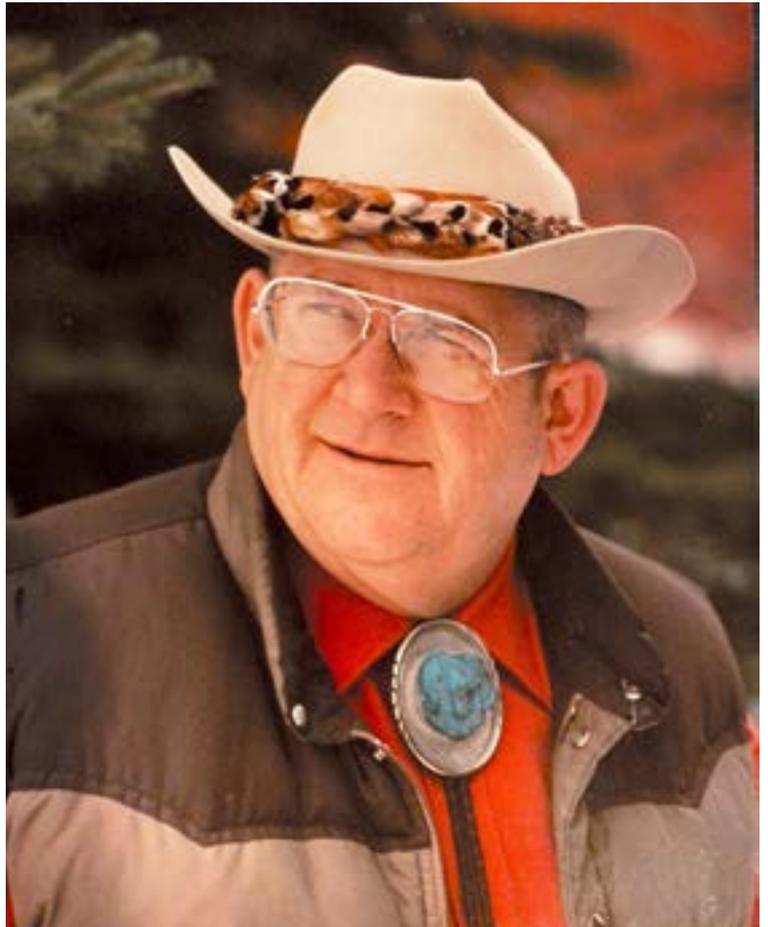
His life was truly amazing. He lived it on his terms, with a passion for the outdoors and people. He loved spending time with family and friends, but meeting new people was something he treasured. Thanks to a 4-year stint in the U.S. Navy, he was able to visit over 30 countries as he traveled the world on the destroyer USS Glennon (and two months on Destroyer Escort USS Crow). He was proud of that service.

When he was discharged in 1954, he ended up working for the New York Power Authority as an administrative supervisor for over 33 years. He convinced the upper echelon of NYPA to be more involved with sportsman/conservation/environmental matters and it became an important part of his job at the Niagara Power Project and throughout the agency’s power facilities.

He started his writing “career” as a freelancer with the Niagara Falls Gazette on a dare from some friends. It didn’t take him long to develop an extensive following and his next leap was taking over outdoor writing duties with the Buffalo Courier Express. He started out writing two to three times a week and it eventually expanded to four days. Remember he was also working fulltime.

Big Bill (I was Little Bill) became involved with many different writer organizations early on. He joined the Outdoor Writers Association of America and became very active, serving as an officer, board member, President, and Chairman of the Board through the years. At one point he had attended 40 straight national conferences, from California to Maine and Mexico to Saskatchewan.

My first conference (I was just 10 years old), was Glenwood Springs, Colorado. We camped across the country with my mother Sylvia and brother Rick (who was 7 years old at the time) in our little





A Soft-Spoken Giant

I guess I might describe Bill Hilts, Sr. as a soft-spoken giant, not only big in stature but also prominent in the outdoor communications and conservation world. I first met Bill at conferences of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, long before I joined NYSOWA. Not only did I get to know him as a fellow member

and friend, but I got to watch his quiet leadership techniques when I sat on the Board of Directors of OWAA while Bill served as President and then Chairman of the Board. If anyone ever fit Teddy Roosevelt's "Speak softly and carry a big stick" credo, it was Bill. Bill's big stick, however, was not literally an instrument of force; instead, it was his quiet ability to get things done.

Bill's communications credits are a long list of jobs he filled. His conservation contributions came in his writing and volunteerism, including serving as Editor of New York State Conservation Comments, the newsletter of the New York State Conservation Council, Editor of the North American Bear Foundation's official magazine, founder of a national crossbow association and member of the New York State Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council, to name just a few. Bill never seemed to seek recognition for his accomplishments, however, which made him even more endearing.

-Glenn Sapir

15-foot Serro Scotty travel trailer. After the conference, we were invited to stay at the 7-W Dude Ranch for a week, horseback riding through the Rocky Mountains. We even camped out among the stars at an elevation of over 7,000 feet. The food never tasted so good; I have never seen so many stars in the sky. I joined OWAA myself in 1983 and attended the conference in Spokane, Washington. I was in awe as I met the likes of Homer Circle, Grits Gresham, Wally Taber, and Pat McManus to name but a few. Dad was proud to have me as part of the group. It led to many more adventures through the decades.

Because of his contacts with OWAA, he thought it was important to form a New York State writers' group. As he reached out to potential members, he heard Hans Paller of Massena was doing the same thing. One phone call cemented the deal for each other and from there it was history – the New York State Outdoor Writers Association was formed in 1967. It continues to this day, 55 years later. I joined in 1981 and continue to be a part of this "family."

He also belonged to other writer groups such as the Outdoor Writers of Canada, the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers, and the New England Outdoor Writers Association as he continued to expand his legion of friends. It was always amazing to me the number of people that he knew and the stories he could tell.

He continued to expand his outdoor writing to publications like Great Lakes Fisherman, Fur-Fish-Game, the New York

State Conservation Council Comments, Fins and Feathers, North American Bear Journal, and Lake Ontario Outdoors to name but a few. He also extended his media involvement into television with "Outdoor World" (a show with longtime friend John Long, Sr.), as well as several radio shows in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls market. And, yes, he was still working a fulltime job.

He belonged to numerous sportsmen's groups and causes. One love of his was bears. In fact, he became involved with the North American Bear Foundation and served as editor of the group's quarterly magazine, the North American Bear Journal. From visiting black bears in the Adirondacks at the dumps in the early days of family camping at Lewey Lake in our Scotty travel trailer to flying around in a helicopter with Alaskan wildlife biologists in charge of Kodiak bear research, his license plate said it all: "Old Bear." He was more like a Teddy bear.

For over 35 years, he was an important cog in the conservation/sportsman machine with the NY State Conservation Council, a huge force in the state when it came to rule making, as well as shaping sportsman/conservation issues across the state. He represented New York for over 35 years as the delegate to the National Wildlife Federation and the Wildlife Management Institute. It all started with local involvement with the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs, and it went as high as serving on the Conservation Fund Advisory Board for NYSCC. There were so many groups, so little time.

Thoughts on a Writing Pioneer

When I met Bill Hilts, Sr. in the fall of 2008, I figured I knew a lot more about him than he did about me. But I was somewhat wrong about that. It took place at a NYS Outdoor Writers Association conference in Old Forge. Although I was a fairly new member, I was quickly becoming involved in the organization that “Bill Sr.” as we called him had co-founded 40 years earlier and he sincerely expressed how much he personally appreciated my efforts.

Bill Sr. was a humorous guy, a trait inherited by his son. At that same conference, one afternoon I gave him a ride back to the hotel where we were staying. When we got there, my wife Adrienne had just arrived. Bill took one look at her, smirked, and said “what the hell is she doing with you?” Then he joined us for a glass of wine and shared story after story of his years as an outdoor journalist. It was a great afternoon.

I always enjoyed seeing Bill when he attended NYSOWA events, but he also always wanted to know what we were up to. “How’s your beautiful bride,” he’d ask about Adrienne, and then inquire about my deer season or our camping trips in the Adirondacks.

In 2017, I hosted NYSOWA’s 50th anniversary conference at Lake George, appropriately where Bill Sr. helped co-found the organization in 1967. I had some free time one morning and asked him if he’d like to take a drive, which he was more than up for. I took him up in the mountains and showed him a few of the area’s small but pristine lakes. He thoroughly enjoyed the scenery and fall foliage, and I certainly enjoyed the company.

That conference, five years ago, was the last time I saw Bill Sr., but we have spoken on occasion. When I became editor of this New York Outdoor News in early 2020 he was one of the first to congratulate me and offer words of encouragement, and has voiced his approval since. Coming from a true professional and gentleman like Bill, that will always mean something.

About this time last year a bunch of us writers got together for a Zoom meeting to celebrate Bill Sr.’s 90th birthday. Looking back, we’re so glad we did that as he really enjoyed it and we got to see him and hear some of those stories once again. You can hear some of this conversation on our recent [Great Northeast Podcast \(Ep. 10\)](#) or look it up on [NYSOWA’s YouTube](#) channel.

Bill Sr. lived a long life, and dedicated a lot of it to sporting interests. He was truly a modern pioneer and I am deeply sad to hear of his passing. He will always be remembered. Our thoughts are with our friend Bill Hilts Jr. and the entire family.

— Dan Ladd

NY Outdoor News, Dec. 30, 2022

If there was an outdoor-related cause he believed in, he would become a supporter. If it was still in the developmental stages, he would help lead the charge. One such cause was the use of crossbows in New York. He was the founding member and president of the New York State Crossbow Hunters Association to help create a better awareness for crossbows as a hunting tool in the state. He would give talks and demonstrations around the state, many times with the help of family and friends (yes, I was part of the charge with my brothers Rick and Dave), to help promote crossbows. He was often criticized by some of the diehard archery groups, calling him names. The funny thing was, he was also at the forefront of the archery movement with compound bows, when they were new and controversial. If he believed in it, he would fight for it.

I could go on and on about the life he lived and the adventures he would be involved with. That is the way we will choose to remember Big Bill. With a big smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye.

When the funeral concluded with a military burial honor, the playing of taps sent chills down my spine. He wouldn’t be around to have lunch or dinner with anymore. He wouldn’t be there for a trip to the Southern Tier for hunting or a nearby writer conference or safari. He won’t physically be involved on the next fishing excursion. However, he will be there in spirit for it all. Rest in peace Big Bill. You did it your way.



Raymond P. Hrynyk January 11, 2023 (Spider Rybaak)

Raymond P. Hrynyk, 73, of Canastota, passed away Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at his home. Raymond was born in Germany. He was a graduate of OCC and the received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Syracuse University. He worked as a union painter and was an author.

He was a US Army veteran and was stationed in Germany where he worked in Military Intelligence. Ray was an avid sportsman, loved fishing.

He was an award winning author and photographer. Under the name of "Spider Rybaak", he wrote several books on fishing and held many fishing classes.

"Romko" as many knew him was a God loving man, generous, kind, and comical. He was very loving and dependable to all that knew him. He was predeceased by his parents Paul & Anna Hrynyk and his brother Walter Hrynyk.

Ray is survived by his loving partner of 40 years, Susan Douglass, his twin brother, John (Susan) Hrynyk of Liverpool and his sister in law Cathy Hrynyk of Syracuse. Service will be held at a later date. Please leave Memories and Condolences on syracuse.com/obits



Spider and Susan at the 2018 NYSOWA Spring Safari in Pulaski, Oswego County. Spider authored a number of fishing books, many of which are available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Photo by Dan Ladd

NYSOWA Supporting Member News

News Release for NYSOWA - Chautauqua, NY; Feb. 2, 2023

Chautauqua County, NY: 12 Fishing Contests for 2023

- The fishing is that good! Multiple organization contests.
- Hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and prizes.

2023 Chautauqua County Fishing Contest Calendar:

Feb. 25: 1-Day Ice Fish Derby: Chautauqua Lake/Hogan's Hut, Midnight-2PM; - Southtowns Walleye, \$35 entry, Tom Chiavetta: 716-208-4245

Apr. 22: 1-Day Perch Derby, Lake Erie, \$35 entry, Southtowns Walleye, Tom Chiavetta: 716-208-4245

June 2-3: WNY Walleye Classic (Barcelona Harbor), \$500 entry, Primitive Outdoors, Josh Larson, 716-490-4226; www.primitivepatriotoutdoor.com/; Lake Erie Walleye Series 1/3.

June 10-18: Southtowns Lake Erie Walleye Tournament, \$100 entry, **\$100k prizes**, <https://www.southtownswalleye.com/>; Ron Kucinski, 716-545-5925

Jun. 24-Aug. 6: NY Walleye Derby, www.newyorkwalleyederby.com

Jun. 30: WNY Heroes Day (DUNKIRK), Jim Steel, 716-481-5348

Jul. 14-15: Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot-Out, \$500 entry, **\$500K prizes**, Don Ruppert, 716-435-4137, www.walleyeshootout.com/; Lake Erie Walleye Series 2/3.

Jul. 23: 1-Day Junk Fish Derby, Lake Erie, \$35 entry, Southtowns Walleye, Tom Chiavetta: 716-208-4245

July 29-30: Bart's Cove Walleye Dual (Dunkirk), \$500 entry, Mark Mohr, 716-998-9871

Aug. 4-6: NCCC Walleye Tourney (DUNKIRK) Zen Olow, 716-640-2776

Aug. 18-19: Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge (DUNKIRK), \$500 entry, Jim Steel, 716-481-5348; <https://innovative-outdoors.com/>; Lake Erie Walleye Series 3/3.

Sep. 9: 1-Day Walleye Derby, Lake Erie, \$35 entry, Southtowns Walleye, Tom Chiavetta: 716-208-4245

Questions - Please contact Dave Barus, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau Outdoor Promotions Associate, dbarus35@yahoo.com, or text to 716-597-4081. For a 2023 Chautauqua County Vacations Guide, please contact www.TourChautauqua.com.

Chautauqua County (NY) Outdoor Communicator Contest

- **Did you communicate a Chautauqua Experience in 2022?**
- **SUBMIT YOUR STORY! Nearly \$1000 in CASH PRIZES**
- **PLAY, LAUGH, LEARN IN CHAUTAUQUA!**

Publish Period: Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022

Submission Deadline: Mar. 15, 2023

Description:

This contest is a professional communicator Excellence-in-Craft competition. Please tempt us with your best published creative outdoor story based on the Eligible Focus Categories listed below. Deliver a sense of

urgency for your readers or viewers to join the fun for any of many Chautauqua County outdoor adventures with your compelling message. Your story can be about fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, boating or anything outdoors, including our grape country – wine tasting, hops farming (microbreweries), etc. Please email submissions as a PDF or web link, if possible. No limit on the number of submissions. All 2022 Contest Winners will be announced on April 30, 2023, by US Mail and by a press release from the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau.



Eligible Focus Categories:

Outdoor Adventure in Chautauqua County, NY. The focus of your story or program MUST address or highlight categories of outdoor fun and adventure to be found in Chautauqua County, NY:

- Fishing, Hunting, Camping, Hiking, Biking, Boating/Kayaking, Bird-watching, Conservation, Wine-Tasting / Microbrew Beverages, Fossil-hunting / Treasure-Hunting, or any other outdoor adventure area.

Entry Fee: Free

Send your published copy to Chautauqua CVB - nixon@tourchautauqua.com.

Eligibility:

Open to media members from every form of public communication including daily, weekly and regional printed publications (newspapers, magazines, books), blogs, website stories, radio, tv and photography. Your source of publication must be identified and included with your submitted entry.

Prizes

A total of three (3) winners will be selected from the submissions, awarding cash prizes and a certificate for framing, as noted here:

1st Prize: \$500 Cash

2nd Prize: \$250 Cash

3rd Prize: \$125 Cash

Submit your entry to Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, Attn: Andrew Nixon, **Email:** nixon@tourchautauqua.com; Phone: 716-450-4569. **US Mail address:** Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, PO Box 1441, Main Gate, Chautauqua, NY, 14722.

For more info on Chautauqua County, NY - please visit www.tourchautauqua.com.



<https://www.outdoornews.com/radio/>



<https://otistec.com>

A Report from the 2023 SHOT Show®

By Steve Zahurak



The SHOT Show (Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade Show) was held in Las Vegas, NV from January 17-20, 2023. It is sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and is the largest trade show of its kind in the world. Each year, the industry's latest and greatest products are on full display at the show, attracting industry professionals from around the world.

It is the 5th largest tradeshow in Las Vegas and the 19th largest in America. The SHOT Show typically brings in over \$88 million to the Las Vegas economy. It is the largest held at the Venetian Expo and Caesars Forum. There were 13.9 miles of aisles displaying products of 2,600 exhibitors. The total exhibit space was more than 816 thousand square feet or 18 acres. There were 52,000 visitors and 2,600 members of the media in attendance. The exhibitors, buyers and media come from 115 countries and all 50 states.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the SHOT Show was cancelled in 2021 and I was unable to attend the 2022 Show. I went through the Exhibitor Directory and circled the names of the exhibitors I planned on visiting. Then, I listed their booth numbers in ascending order in each of the three areas I planned on traversing during the four days. As I followed my outline, I also stopped at booths that were not on my list, but caught my eye. By late afternoon, before the 6PM closing time, my thighs were letting me know I was no longer in my youth.

In the Press Room each morning, I was pleased to meet fellow writer, Larry Case, of Fayetteville, WV. Larry is a retired West Virginia Environmental Officer and his columns are syndicated in the Southeastern United States.

A few of the products that I would like to mention are LOWA boots, Fisher Space Pens, Nexbelt, Nukem Hunting Blinds, Case Knives, Zippo lighters, Utica Cutlery, MantisX Laser Academy, Otis Technology, Bone-Dri gun cases, Wiley X glasses and Grainger McCoy Artisan Cutlery. These are only a few of the 2,600 exhibitors at the SHOT Show and I have mentioned them to give you a flavor for the Show. I have not mentioned any of the firearm or tactical exhibitors as I did not have enough time and stamina to visit that portion of the SHOT Show. Lord willing and the creek don't rise, I'll visit all of the booths at the 2024 Show.

BoatU.S. Magazine Reprints

We've Moved, and Made it Easier to Use Our Stories



Are you looking for great boating stories for your publication or website at no cost? Selected Boat U.S. Magazine Reprints – reputable, highly-vetted boating editorial, with professional photography and illustrations – are available for your magazine, club or slipholder newsletter or website.

NEW for 2023: The BoatU.S. Magazine Reprints website has moved to a new URL: <https://boat.us/e/mediahub>

NEW for 2023: We've made things easier. You no longer have to login in to your own BoatU.S. Magazine Reprints account with the password. Now, anyone may click on this site and view our content any time without the need to register.

NEW for 2023: We've added 9 new BoatU.S. Magazine stories for your reprinting:

1. Give Your Boat a Lift (boat lift maintenance)
2. A Sailor's Dreaded Chore (climbing the mast)
3. Know Your Hoses
4. Cut It Out! (cutting fiberglass)
5. Drip No More (dripless shaft seal install)
6. Current Scoop on Galvanic Corrosion
7. Girl Power (women boat handling)
8. Batten Down the Hatches (DIY hatch install)
9. What Lurks Beneath? (preventing spread of invasive species)

If you wish to download a story for free, you'll be prompted to insert your email address, check a box on the type of communication you will be using it for, provide consent to privacy agreement and agree to our simple policy/terms.

LAST CALL: NYS OUTDOORSMAN HALL OF FAME EXTENDED NOMINATION DEADLINE IS FEB. 20



The New York State Outdoorsman Hall of Fame has extended the nomination deadline for 2023 inductees and special award winners from Jan. 31 to Feb. 20.

Submitters should contact the Hall of Fame to obtain the revised nomination cover form along with instructions on what is to be included with the nomination. This can all be found at the organization's website, www.nysohof.org, or by sending an email to: sfcf@tds.net or nysohof@gmail.com.

Inductees and special award winners will be honored at an annual ceremony on May 21, 2023.

PERTNEAR OUTDOORS THIRD ANNUAL SHED FEST UNDER WAY

Buffalo-based Pertnear Outdoors is holding the third annual Shed Fest, supporting the Upper Genesee River Branch of the National Deer Association.

Shed Fest is open to antler shed hunters in all states who are out shed hunting during this winter and spring. Sheds from whitetails, blacktails and mule deer are all eligible for the contest. Upon finding a shed, simply post a picture on Facebook or Instagram, using the tags @pertnearoutdoors and #shedfest23. Photos can be sent by email to pertnearoutdoors@gmail.com. All sheds must be from 2023. Enter as many antler sheds in the contest as you find.

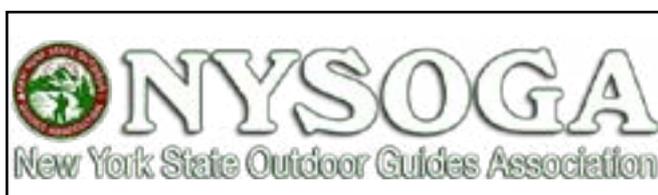
The contest began earlier this winter and runs through April 16. An in-person event will be held April 23 at Windy Brew in Sheldon with raffles, door prizes and antler scoring for the Northeast and New York State Big buck clubs. There is a \$25 registration fee. Details can be found at www.pertnearoutdoors.com.



NYSOGA ANNOUNCE LICENSED GUIDE EXAMINATIONS FOR 2023

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation recently announced that examinations are scheduled for individuals seeking to become licensed guides in New York State. Guide exams being offered primarily online in 2022 for camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, whitewater, rock climbing, ice climbing, and certified skilled with boats and canoes. A guide is a person at least 18 years of age who offers services for hire, part or all of which include directing, instructing, or aiding another individual in these activities.

DEC's Special Licenses Unit administers licensing of outdoor guides. Applicants need not be a resident of New York State to receive a guide's license. This year's online exam dates and application deadlines are March 31, May 12, June 23, July 7, Sept. 15 and Oct. 13.



An exam on March 11 will take place in person at the New York State Outdoor Guides Association's Winter Rendezvous being held in Hamilton, N.Y. Pre-registration for the exams is required. Visit www.nysoga.com for more information on becoming a licensed guide.

A New Years Resolution Kept

By Dan Ladd/Outdoornews.com

For this writer, 2022 will be remembered as the year I fully discovered reloading. It's taken awhile, but I'm finally there. Best of all, with deer season over I'll be getting back to the reloading bench.



While ammunition prices and lack of availability were certainly factors in getting me over the reloading hump, the truth is that it's just something I've always wanted to do.

In a New York Outdoor News column I wrote earlier this year, I compared reloading to brewing my own beer, something I did in my younger days before I discovered I was gluten intolerant. I also make my own maple syrup, another self-sufficient hobby, that seems similar to that of reloading.

My timing sure could've been better. In early 2021, after interviewing Robin Sharpless from the Cortland, N.Y. based Redding Reloading company, I felt the reloading itch coming on. About a decade ago, an old family friend gave me a box full of vintage reloading stuff. After talking with Sharpless, and doing some research, I realized I had an old C-style, single-stage press and some rusty old dies for reloading .38-special.

Then, early last year, after another interview with Sharpless on the growing popularity of reloading, I told him I was ready to take the plunge. It was sort of a New Year's resolution for me. It took some time, but by mid-summer I had everything I needed: a Redding T-7 turret press, scales, a powder measure, new dies and a number of smaller accessories.

As for components, knowing the reloading day would come, I had saved plenty of brass over the years for my two main deer calibers: .30-30 and .30-06. And thanks to my old friend, I had plenty of .38 special brass, lead cast bullets and even some primers. Rifle primers, however, have been a challenge, but thankfully, a friend came through with a small amount to get me started.

I also sought some advice from a few guys I hunt with or who are members of our local shooting club, and who reload. I got a lot of it. Add in some serious manual reading, plenty of time on the internet and downloading a copy of a book Sharpless co-authored titled Handbook of Reloading Basics, and I was on my way.

I decided to start with straight-wall pistol cartridges for my .38-special revolver. Cleaning the brass and running it through the sizing/de-capping die seemed like an accomplishment. Experimenting with the expanding die and eventually getting up the nerve to measure powder, pour it into a casing and seat a bullet was simply way too cool.

I loaded up 10 rounds and then deer season took over my daylight time. But my wife put a chronograph under the Christmas tree, and one recent afternoon, I hit the range with a few guys to try out the loads. They weren't perfect, at least according to the chronograph, but they went "boom" and all I can say is how satisfying it felt.

Now I have a starting point for the New Year and once I get the load I want I'll be getting a bit more serious.



Download Redding Reloading's Media Kit at <https://www.redding-reloading.com/media-center>

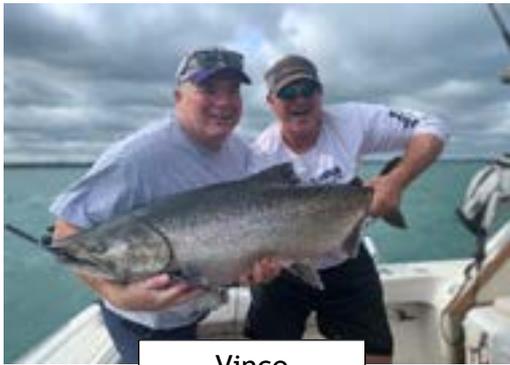
GREAT LAKES ANGLERS

FEBRUARY 16-19, 2023

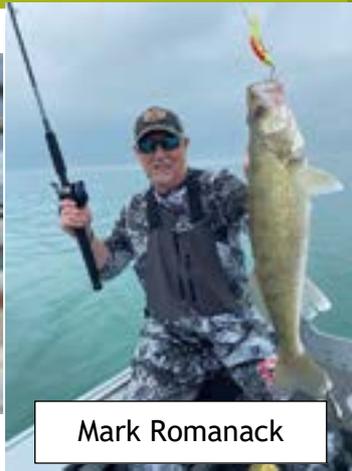
"IF YOU ENJOY FISHING THE GREAT LAKES YOU WILL LOVE THIS EVENT!"

GREATER NIAGARA FISHING & OUTDOOR EXPO

THE TEACHING FISHING SHOW



Vince
Pierleoni



Mark Romanack



Roger Hinchcliff

- This "Teaching Fishing" show provides each attendee with the opportunity to become a better angler by choosing, from a robust curriculum, consisting of over 300 hours of "Fishing Education".
- Over 170 booths of Exhibitors pack the Event Center providing Anglers the opportunity to speak with many of the top Great Lakes "Fishing Related" and Marine Electronic Manufacturers along with purchasing from high quality "Retailers" selling the latest "Hot Gear" at "Show Special Pricing".
- The LOTSA Salmon School, a new Walleye School, "Beginner Fishing" schools for Walleye, Bass, Salmon, Fly Fishing and Kayak Fishing, a Super Kids Fishing Clinic, a unique Fly Fishing "Social", The Super Walleye Clinic, Private Fly Tying Classes, the DEC Open House and a special "Women's Fishing School" are among the many reasons to attend.
- For a full listing of educational offerings along with additional show information visit:

www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:
GREATER NIAGARA FISHING &
OUTDOOR EXPO



NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Serving the outdoors through communication

MINUTES OF THE NYSOWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JAN. 23, 2023

In Attendance: Chris Paparo, Dan Ladd, Dave Figura, Tom Schlichter, Glenn Sapir, Leo Maloney, Nate Kennedy, Deb Brosen, Bob Henke, Chris Kenyon, Steve Piatt, Rich Redman, Charles Witek III **Absent:** Jerrod Vila

Dan Ladd arranged for this Zoom meeting that was called for 7 p.m. and handed leadership of the meeting to Glenn Sapir to discuss recommendations of an ad hoc committee formed to review the EIC program.

Glenn credited Tom Schlichter and Charles Witek III with their input in this three-person committee and then presented the recommendations. Some were modified after discussion and almost all were approved unanimously. Here were the approved recommendations:

- The name of the program would officially be the Excellence in Craft Awards Program.
- It recognizes only paid-for entries as these awards are being given for professional work.
- Awards will not be given in any category that receives entries from less than three members.
- If entries are from fewer than three members in either the Magazine Column or Newspaper Column category, the entries for those two categories will be combined into a Column category.
- If entries are from fewer than three members in either the Magazine Feature or Newspaper Feature category, the entries for those two categories will be combined into a Feature category.
- Entries in categories in which no awards are given because of lack of minimum number of submissions may be resubmitted in the next round for which that category is being considered and will count toward a member's two-submission maximum.
- Audio books, whether original or an audio version of a previously created book, is eligible for the TV, Radio, Video and Audio category and not the Book category.
- The following bold wording is being removed from the rules:
"Online publication may be a feature, column, blog post or other electronic communication that was paid for **or was posted on a person's business-related website.**"
"The author must have been paid for the work entered **or be part of their professional work, such as appearing on their website.**"

Chris Paparo is creating an ad hoc committee to explore a new category tentatively referred to as "Social Media" or "Social Marketing," which would provide inclusion for the now-excluded work posted on a member's business-related website.

Glenn handed the meeting over to Dan, who talked about the new software program NYSOWA is introducing and urged board members to register their information in this program.

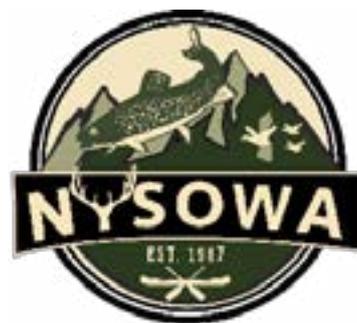
The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Sapir, Recording Secretary

APPLICATION FOR NYSOWA MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Website: _____
 Do you receive payment for your services? _____
 Other Writer Affiliations: _____



CATEGORIES (Note: fillers are not considered to be articles in applying for Writer status)

A: Newspaper _____ Attach 12 tear sheets
 City: _____
 Circulation: _____ Column Name: _____
 Published: ___ Daily ___ Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Freelance

B. Magazine _____
 Staff position: _____ Freelance: _____
 ___ National: Attach two tear sheets. ___ Regional: Attach four tear sheets.

C. Lecturer – Attach copies of a published schedule or six paid presentations.
 Staff position: _____ Freelance: _____

D. ___ Photographer ___ Illustrator ___ Artist - Attach proof of publications of film/video, 8 stills, or prints.
 Staff position: _____ Freelance: _____

E. Book Author – attach a copy of the Publishing House Catalog listing the book.
 Name of Book: _____ Publisher _____

F: Editor/Publisher – Attach a copy of a current issue of magazine/newspaper.
 Name of Publication: _____

G: Radio/Television – Attach audio/video tape documenting (4) 30 minute or (8) 15 minute programs. Station: _____
 City: _____

H. Public Relations Agency - Attach copies of (6) news releases.
 Staff position or occupation: _____

I. Electronic Publishing – Attach 8 published outdoor columns or articles in last 12 mos. Electronic
 Publication: _____ web address _____

Specialties

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> b. Firearms/Shooting | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Archery/Bowhunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Freshwater fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Saltwater Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Flyfishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> g. Boating | <input type="checkbox"/> h. Camping/Backpacking | <input type="checkbox"/> i. Wilderness Survival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> j. Trapping | <input type="checkbox"/> k. Outdoor Travel | <input type="checkbox"/> l. Outdoor Politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> m. Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> n. Environmental Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> o. Natural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> p. Water Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> q. Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> r. Nature |

Areas of Expertise

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Book Author | <input type="checkbox"/> B. Magazine Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> C. Newspaper Editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Television | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Electronic Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. Magazine Columnist | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Newspaper Columnist | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Freelance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> J. Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Illustrator | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Lecturer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> M. Photographer | | |

Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____ Active
 Sponsor Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Active Sponsor: _____

Please enclose a check, made payable to NYSOWA, with this application and mail to:
 Nate Kennedy 24 Lawrence Ave., Potsdam, NY 13676

Join online at <https://app.joinit.com/o/nysowa/members>



APPLICATION FOR NEW YORK STATE OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSN. SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

Supporting Membership Dues: \$60.00 per year.

Our company or organization, wishing to support the New York State Outdoor Writers Association (NYSOWA) in its program to further the causes of conservation and wise use of natural resources, and to promote outdoor recreation activities, hereby applies for Supporting Membership.

Name: _____
Position: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
E-Mail: _____
Website: _____
Contact: _____

Please outline your organization's interests and activities in the outdoor field:

Applicant Signature: _____
Active Sponsor: _____

Please enclose a check, made payable to NYSOWA, with this application and mail to:

Nate Kennedy 24 Lawrence Ave., Potsdam, NY 13676

Join online at <https://app.joinit.com/o/nysowa/members>